



# BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



**Robert L. Nickels Intermediate**

Nickels Intermediate School  
Friday Office Communication  
November 21, 2025

## Important Information:

### Attendance Line:

Please call the attendance line at 616-878-6400 or email [nickelsattendance@bcpsk12.net](mailto:nickelsattendance@bcpsk12.net), if your student will be absent, running late, or needs to be picked up for an appointment during the school day. If we are unable to answer, please leave us a detailed message with your name, the name of your student, the reason for the absence, or the time your student will be arriving or need to be picked up for an appointment. Thank you for your help in this.

[Nickels website](#)

### School Hours:

Full Day: 7:55 am - 2:50 pm

Half Day: 7:55 am - 11:10 am

### Office hours:

Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Phone number: 616-878-6400

## Upcoming Dates

### Nov:

Nov. 26th - 28th - Thanksgiving Break - No School

Nov. 27th - No Forte

### Dec:

Dec. 1st - Map Testing Begins

Dec. 2nd - Forte Practice 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Dec. 3rd - Forte Practice 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Dec. 5th - Key Card Sale Ends

Dec. 9th - NO Forte

Dec. 9th - Forte Concert 6:00 pm @ VSFAC

Dec. 9th - 6th Grade Choir Concert 7:00 pm @ VSFAC

Dec. 10th - Art Club 2:50 pm - 3:45 pm

Dec. 11th - NO Forte

Dec. 16th - NO Forte

Dec. 16th - Bulldog Growl 2:55 pm - 3:45 pm

### **Art Room News:**

If your child is in art this semester, you will be receiving a slip with a **discount code for Artsonia.com**.

If your child is *not* currently in art but you would still like to receive the discount code, please email me at [mmarshall@bcpsk12.net](mailto:mmarshall@bcpsk12.net), and I will be happy to send it to you. Thank you ~ Mrs. Marshall!

### **6th Grade Choir Concert 12/9/25 @ VSFAC:**

[Concert Informational Flyer](#)

### **5th Grade Holiday Activity @ 3 Mile Project - 12/18/25:**

[5th Grade Permission Form](#) - Permission Forms are due by 12/5/25

### **6th Grade Holiday Activity @ 3 Mile Project - 12/19/25:**

[6th Grade Permission Form](#) - Permission Forms are due by 12/5/25

### **2026 BCMS Baseball Season:**

It's never too early to think about baseball! For the last several years we have been able to offer a club baseball season through a partnership with the Michigan Middle School Baseball League. We participate in this 8 week league that is based out of Meijer Sports Complex (Rockford). Games are played on Tuesdays/Thursdays throughout March - April. We will once again be offering teams at the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade levels. Tryouts will be held in early January, but for planning purposes we'd like to gauge interest now. Please note, if you are new to the district or an incoming 6th grade family, this is a club sport and it is not affiliated with BCPS. Families are required to cover player/league costs, and historically it's been about \$200 per player. This includes a uniform package, league registration, insurance, game balls, umpire fees etc. If you'd like to try out, please complete this interest [survey](#). Tryouts will be held in January and more information will be sent at a later date.

**2026 BCMS Baseball Coach:** 6th Grade Head Coach: Dan Sterckx

### **Ski and Snowboard Club:**

A club for 5th through 12th grade students who enjoy hitting the slopes together. The bus spots are full for the 25-26 season, but you can still join and meet us at Bittersweet on our ski club nights.

See the [information document](#) for details.

### **Cooler Weather Gear:**

As the weather turns colder please have your child dress warmly for recess (sweatshirt, pants, winter coat, gloves, hat, boots and snow pants). Students do go outside unless the temperature/wind chill is below Zero.

Thank you for your help in this!

✨ **Journey into the enchanting realm of *The Nutcracker* with the West Michigan Youth Ballet** - a timeless holiday tradition. Join Clara, Fritz, and the Nutcracker Prince on their Christmas Eve adventure filled with toys, magic, battles, and the Land of Sweets. Enjoy this captivating production brought to life by talented student dancers from around West Michigan.

**Forest Hills Fine Arts Center** - Tickets (virtual option) - [fhfac.ludus.com](http://fhfac.ludus.com)

Saturday, Dec 6 at 1:00 & 4:30 pm

Sunday, Dec 7 at 1:00 & 4:30 pm

**Frauenthal Theater** - Tickets - <https://frauenthal.org>

Saturday, Dec 13 at 4:00 pm

A Magical Invitation: Nutcracker Tea Party! - 11:30 AM before both Saturday & Sunday 1:00 PM shows. Join members of the cast before the performance and delight in sweet treats, fun crafts, and special visits from your favorite Nutcracker characters! Every guest will enjoy a light assortment of snacks, magical photo opportunities, and a special souvenir to take home! Tea Party tickets are available as an add-on when purchasing 1pm show tickets. Don't miss this unforgettable pre-show experience!

### **Schoology:**

<https://app.schoology.com/home> Please encourage your child to check schoology daily. If you click on the orange Byron Center symbol in the top left hand corner you will see the "feed". It will show postings by the teacher of what the homework is. Parents, if you connect to your child's account AND get the schoology app you can get notifications of homework sent to your phone. If you are new to schoology and need to register an account for your child, please use this link:

<https://app.schoology.com/register.php?type=parent> Please email your students homeroom teacher and they can provide you with a specific access code to your child's account.

### **Breakfast and Lunch are FREE for K-12 BCPS students during the 2025-2026 school year!**

Second meals and a la carte items are not included, and must be purchased separately.

Please fill out an application if you think you may qualify because it will benefit you and your school! Free/reduced students receive reduced fees for sport fees, testing fees, and possible EBT cards. Applications for the 2025-2026 are open online here. Applications can be [found on the district's website](#). If you need to set up an account or add funds for student meals, you can do so through the [Meal Magic Family Portal](#).

### **Lunch Menu: [November Lunch Menu](#)**

Fresh Baked Cookies will be available every Friday for purchase ~ If your student would like to purchase one they are \$1.00 each.

### **Key Card Sale:**

Our Annual Key Card sale has begun. 50% of the Sale Proceeds goes to our Nickels Students. For the 5th grade students, the sale proceeds go towards the 5th grade class end of the year Field trip and Holiday party. For the 6th grade students, the sale proceeds go towards their Holiday party and individual student accounts to help with their end of the year Field trip. Your student will bring home a sample for you to review and to show to family and friends. If you're not interested in the key card book, please send the book bag back to school. Thank you for Supporting Nickels! Sale Ends December 5th.

### **District Calendar 25/26:**

### **[25/26 District Calendar](#)**

### **District Calendar 26/27:**

#### **26/27 District Calendar**

### **25/26 6th Grade Sports Information:**

**<http://bcwestmsathletics.com/>**

**[25/26 Middle School Sports Informational Flyer](#)**

### **BCHS Career Speakers:**

Byron Center High School is looking for individuals from the community, who would be willing to come in and talk about their careers with a group of our Senior English Students as they look towards their next step after graduation. We set aside 25 minutes from 1:25 PM - 1:50 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays for career presentations. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please contact Pam Gillespie at [pgillespie@bcpsk12.net](mailto:pgillespie@bcpsk12.net) or 616-878-6635 for more information.

### **Nurses Corner:**

#### **Medication Consent Form 25/26**

#### **Medication Policy Reminders:**

1. If your student needs to take medication while at school they MUST have a medication consent form completed. Prescription meds require BOTH a parent/guardian AND a physician signature. Over the counter (OTC) meds require a parent/guardian signature only. No student will be administered medication without the proper consent forms.
2. Please remember that students are NOT allowed to self carry ANY medications (prescription or OTC) per our district policy UNLESS it's an emergency medication and we have the appropriate forms completed and signed.
3. All medications must be stored in the office and brought to school by a parent/guardian. They must be in the original container with the appropriate label (and not expired). We will not accept any medications in baggies, envelopes, etc. Amy Voiles RN-BSN Direct Phone: 616-878-6414 Fax Number: 616-345-1924

#### **When to keep your student home from school**

### **Family Tech Tip #3:**

#### **“Reset the room” to make space for screen-free hobbies and activities.**

Here's a secret no one talks about when it comes to reducing screen time: it's called "resetting the room." It's a simple strategy for making future habits easy.

Thoughtfully arranging your space can make a big difference in encouraging screen-free activities. When kids see toys, books, and art supplies easily displayed and within reach, they naturally gravitate toward them.

Meanwhile, keeping screens tucked away when not in use makes them less of a default choice.

This environmental design approach is backed by behavioral science—we tend to choose activities that are convenient and visible.

This isn't just for little kids. Your pre-teens and teens will also gravitate toward what they see around them, whether it's a recipe book, a drum set, or a backyard game.

Want an easy (and free!) way to refresh your space? Use our local library. Beyond books, our library offers a "library of things"—you can borrow puzzles, instruments, tools, kitchen supplies, and more.

How will you arrange your home to showcase the activities your family loves and inspire new screen-free interests?

**"If you're interested in meeting up with other parents and kids screen-free here and there, feel free to reach out to Katie Kimball (parent of a 5th grader) at [mrskatiekimball@gmail.com](mailto:mrskatiekimball@gmail.com) to get connected."**

### **Cell Phone Expectations and Consequences:**

Our policy states that all cell phones must be off and stored in a student's locker (or homeroom teacher's classroom) from 7:30-2:50 each day. This policy is a three strike system. Please review the consequences below with your student to ensure understanding of cell phone use at school.

#### **Cell Phone Policy (Electronic Device Policy)**

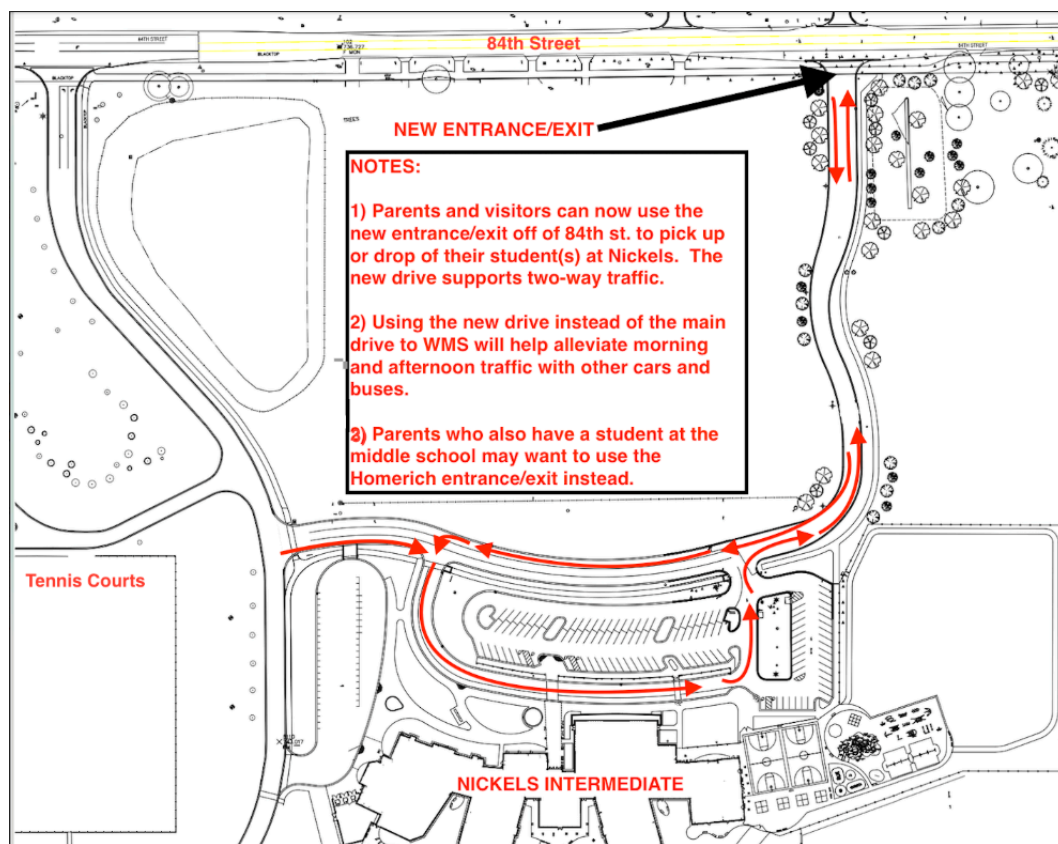
1st Offense – Device is taken away for the remainder of the day.

2nd Offense – Device is taken away, parents are called, and parents must come pick up device from school.

3rd Offense – Parent is called and device is banned permanently from the school for the remainder of the year.

Our goal with this policy is to help all students focus on learning throughout the school day. Thank you for partnering with us!

## Student Pick up and Drop off (New Driveway Entrance for Nickels) :



### **Dear Parents and Guests-**

The following diagram shows the directional flow of how pickup, drop-off, and parking will occur before, during and after school at Nickels Intermediate. Please note that the pickup/drop-off lanes directly in front of the building are one way and counter-clockwise. Students should exit to the sidewalk on the passenger side of your vehicle. Please be sure to pull forward if space allows along the curb. Once your student is safely dropped off, it is ok to pull out into the exit lanes. **Do not use the middle lane for entering Nickels' driveway.** Please continue to use the designated drop off/pick up loop when dropping off or picking up your student at school. **Please do not use the bus loop (west of the school), the main drive between West and Nickels.**

After school dismissal, students at Nickels will get on a transfer bus and ride it over to the bus rodeo (located at Heritage Elementary), students will transfer to their home bus at this location. In the past, some parents came to the bus transfer area (bus rodeo) to pick up their kids. We are asking that you avoid picking up your students from the bus transfer area. Our bus riders will load and unload buses on the far west side of the building in a separate and protected lot designated for this purpose. When picking up your student at the end of the school day please exit towards 84th street.

[Informational Video of the Drive to Nickels](#)



## Hand 2 Hand:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We would like to offer your student the opportunity to participate in a program at Nickels Intermediate called "Hand2Hand". This program helps provide a student with food/snacks for the weekends!

Here's how Hand2Hand will work: At the end of the week students who are signed up will receive a minimum of 10 food items in a black school logo drawstring bag that will be provided at the first week of participation (subsequent weeks will be a plastic bag). These food items will be a combination of breakfast, snacks, lunch and/or dinner items. While the food items are meant for the student, they can be shared among the family as well. (Please note: if your student or another family member has food allergies it will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to check the contents of the backpack each week to ensure the food doesn't contain ingredients which could cause an allergic reaction).

There is no cost to participate! If you sign your student up to receive Hand2Hand, they will continue to receive the weekly bags each week. This opportunity is being provided by Corinth Reformed Church in Byron Center. To learn more about Hand2Hand, please visit their website: [h2hkids.org](http://h2hkids.org). Fill out form [HERE](#).

